**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.     (Currently Amended)  A method for creating a snapshot of a virtual volume containing stored data, comprising:

identifying a virtual volume comprising a plurality of objects defining a mapping to data in at least one storage device, wherein each one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping corresponds to a different portion of the virtual volume, and wherein the plurality of objects defining the mapping are distributed across more than one processor in a virtualization layer between at least one host and the at least one storage device;

creating a set of partition snapshots for the plurality of objects defining the mapping, with one partition snapshot for each of the plurality of objects defining the mapping, wherein each of the partition snapshots comprises a point-in-time copy of the data in the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping; and

generating an overall snapshot of the virtual volume from the set of partition snapshots.

2. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, further comprising distributing the overall snapshot of the virtual volume across more than one processor in the virtualization layer.

3. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, wherein each of the set of partition snapshots is created by the processor to which the corresponding object is distributed.

4. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, wherein each partition snapshot further comprises state information related to the state of the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the partition snapshot at the time the partition snapshot was created.

5. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating a change log corresponding to the overall snapshot; and

storing, in the change log, changes to the virtual volume made after the overall snapshot is generated.

6. (Original)  The method of claim 5, wherein the change log is a copy on write (COW) change log.

7. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 5, wherein the partition snapshot cannot be changed after it is generated.

8.　　(Currently Amended)　A method for creating a snapshot of a virtual volume containing stored data, comprising:

identifying a virtual volume comprising a plurality of objects defining a mapping to data in at least one storage device, wherein each one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping corresponds to a different portion of the virtual volume, and wherein the plurality of objects defining the mapping are distributed across more than one processor in a virtualization layer between at least one host and the at least one storage device;

creating a set of partition snapshots for the plurality of objects defining the mapping, with one partition snapshot for each of the plurality of objects defining the mapping, wherein each of the partition snapshots comprises a point-in-time copy of the data in the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping; and

specifying, for each of the partition snapshots, a change log volume corresponding to the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the object for the partition snapshot, for storing changes to the portion of the virtual volume;

generating an overall snapshot of the virtual volume from the set of partition snapshots; and

storing, in each change log volume, changes made to the corresponding portion of the virtual volume after the overall snapshot is generated.

9.　　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 8, wherein the change log volume is maintained by the processor to which the corresponding object is distributed.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a request for data stored in the virtual volume;

determining, from the change log volume corresponding to the portion of the virtual volume containing the requested data, whether the requested data has changed since the overall snapshot was generated;

retrieving the requested data from the change log volume corresponding to the portion of the virtual volume containing the requested data when it is determined that the requested data has changed since the overall snapshot was generated; and

retrieving the requested data from the source volume corresponding to the portion of the virtual volume containing the requested data, when it is determined that the requested data has not changed since the overall snapshot was generated.


11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

retrieving the requested data from the overall snapshot, when it is determined that the requested data has not changed since the overall snapshot was generated.


12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising distributing the overall snapshot of the virtual volume across more than one processor in the virtualization layer.

13.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of partition snapshots is created by the processor to which the corresponding object is distributed.


14.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one partition snapshot further comprises state information related to the state of the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the partition snapshot at the time the at least one partition snapshot was created.


15.    (Currently Amended)  A system for creating a snapshot of a virtual volume comprising:

a plurality of storage devices storing data corresponding to a host;

a means for providing a virtualization layer between the host and the plurality of storage devices, the virtualization layer comprising a plurality of objects defining a mapping to data in the storage devices, wherein each one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping corresponds to a different portion of the virtual volume, and wherein the plurality of objects defining the mapping are distributed across more than one processor in the virtualization layer between the host and the plurality of storage devices; and

a means for providing a snapshot layer between the host and the virtualization layer, the snapshot layer comprising:

a partition snapshot object for each of the plurality of objects defining the mapping in the virtualization layer, wherein the partition snapshot for each object

~~comprises a point-in-time copy of the different portion of the virtual volume~~ ~~corresponding to one of the plurality of objects in the virtualization layer,~~ the partition snapshot <u>object </u>having references to (1) the one of the plurality of objects <u>defining the mapping </u>in the virtualization layer, (2) a COW point-in-time copy of the <u>data in the </u>different portion of the virtual volume, and (3) a change log corresponding to the portion of the virtual volume, and

an overall snapshot object of the virtual volume comprising references to each partition snapshot <u>object </u>corresponding to <u>one of the plurality of </u>objects <u>defining the mapping </u>comprising the virtual volume<u>; and</u>

<u>a means for generating the overall snapshot object</u>.

16.    (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 15, wherein each point-in-time copy contains state information about a state of the corresponding portion of the virtual volume in the virtualization layer when the snapshot layer is generated.

17.    (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 15, wherein each change log stores changes made to the corresponding portion of the virtual volume after the snapshot layer is generated.

18.    (Cancelled).

19.    (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 15, wherein the partition

snapshot objects are distributed across the multiple processors in the virtualization

layer.

20.    (Original)  The system of claim 15, further comprising:

an interface enabling the host to view a point-in-time representation of the data

by accessing the overall snapshot object.

21.    (Original)  The system of claim 15, further comprising:

an interface enabling the host to specify when the snapshot layer is created.

22.    (Original)  The system of claim 15, wherein the snapshot layer is created

on a periodic basis.

23.    (Currently Amended)  A system for creating a snapshot of a virtual volume

comprising:

a means for identifying a virtual volume comprising a plurality of objects defining

a mapping to data in at least one storage device, wherein each one of the plurality of

objects defining the mapping corresponds to a different portion of the virtual volume,

and wherein the plurality of objects defining the mapping are distributed across more

than one processor in a virtualization layer between at least one host and the at least

one storage device;

a means for creating a set of partition snapshots for the plurality of objects

defining the mapping, with one partition snapshot for each of the plurality of objects

defining the mapping, wherein each of the partition snapshots comprises a point-in-time

copy of the data in the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the one of

the plurality of objects defining the mapping; and

a means for generating an overall snapshot of the virtual volume from the set of

partition snapshots.


24.     (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 23, wherein the generating

means further includes:

a means for distributing the overall snapshot across more than one processor in

the virtualization layer.


25.     (Cancelled).


26.     (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 23, further comprising:

a means for creating a change log corresponding to the overall snapshot; and

a means for storing, in the change log, changes to the virtual volume made after

the snapshot is generated.

27.    (Currently Amended)  A ~~tangibly embodied~~ computer-readable storage medium containing code for directing a processor to perform a method for creating a copy of stored data, the method comprising:

identifying a virtual volume comprising a plurality of objects defining a mapping to data in at least one storage device, wherein each one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping corresponds to a different portion of the virtual volume, and wherein the plurality of objects defining the mapping are distributed across more than one processor in a virtualization layer between at least one host and the at least one storage device;

creating a set of partition snapshots for the plurality of objects defining the mapping, with one partition snapshot for each of the objects, wherein each of the partition snapshots comprises a point-in-time copy of the data in the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the one of the plurality of objects defining the mapping; and

generating an overall snapshot of the virtual volume from the set of partition snapshots.

28.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the at least one partition snapshot further comprises state information related to the state of the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the partition snapshot at the time the partition snapshot was created.

29.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the method further includes:

distributing the overall snapshot across more than one processor in the virtualization layer.

30.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the method further includes:

creating a change log corresponding to the overall snapshot; and

storing, in the change log, changes to the virtual volume made after the overall snapshot is generated.

31.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, wherein the overall snapshot of the virtual volume comprises state information related to the state of the virtual volume at the time the snapshot was generated.

32.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating a change log for each partition snapshot for storing changes to the different portion of the virtual volume corresponding to the object for the partition snapshot; and

storing, in the change log, changes to the portion of the virtual volume made after the partition snapshot is generated.